

The Franklin County Board of Health

At Work For You!

Annual Report to the Community

March 2005

The Franklin County Board of Health works every day to make life better for all of its citizens by protecting public health, preventing disease and injury, promoting access to health care services and encouraging healthy lifestyles. Our goal is to ensure healthy neighborhoods, workplaces and homes, safe food and water, clean air, protection from the spread of infectious diseases or acts of bioterrorism, and a citizenry that is informed and motivated to take responsibility for their health.

As you browse through this special insert, we hope you are impressed by all of the services that the Franklin County Board of Health offers to you and your family. As your Board of Health, we are at work for you through immunizations, plumbing services, rabies clinics, food service or restaurant inspections, car seat classes, mosquito control, and the list goes on and on. Many of our services happen "behind the scenes" but be assured we are at work for you!

Don't hesitate to contact us or visit our web site to find out even more about what public health can and does do for you.

Areas We Serve



CITIES

Bexley* • Dublin • Gahanna
Grandview Heights • Grove City • Hilliard
Reynoldsburg • Upper Arlington • Westerville
Whitehall • Worthington**

TOWNSHIPS

Blendon • Brown • Clinton • Franklin
Hamilton • Jackson • Jefferson • Madison
Mifflin • Norwich • Perry • Plain • Pleasant
Prairie • Sharon • Truro • Washington

VILLAGES

Brice • Canal Winchester • Groveport
Harrisburg • Lockbourne • Marble Cliff
Minerva Park • New Albany • Obetz • Riverlea
Urbancrest • Valleyview

* plumbing and nursing services only
** plumbing services only



Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
- World Health Organization



WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!

Log onto our web site at www.franklincountyohio.gov/health and fill out our short survey to receive a FREE GIFT while supplies last. Only one gift per household. If you do not have internet access, please call 462-3160 and a survey will be mailed to you.



Emergency Preparedness

Be Prepared. Be Informed. Be Involved.

Emergency Preparedness continues to be a top priority for the Franklin County Board of Health. We have developed plans to address emergencies and disasters and continually train our staff to be prepared to respond. You can be rest assured that we are prepared and will work with our other emergency response partners to efficiently and effectively protect you and your family in the event of an emergency. Preparedness does not just include the large scale emergency like a terrorist attack. Our staff has actively been responding to the everyday emergencies in our communities such as flooding, power outages, mercury spills and vaccine shortages, just to name a few.

While we continue to prepare, only you can prepare yourself and your family. Emergency preparedness is

as simple as planning ahead.

Be prepared. Develop a disaster plan with your household to prepare for what to do, how to find each other and how to communicate during an emergency.

Be informed. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

Be involved. There are many volunteer opportunities in the community.

For more information on how to prepare you and your family for an emergency, visit www.franklincountyohio.gov/health.

Clean Indoor Air Ordinances Take Effect in Franklin County

Call 462-4AIR (4247) to report complaints

Do you know which restaurants and bars are now smoke-free in Franklin County? With all of the new clean indoor air ordinances taking effect, this has turned out to be an important question to many people.

The communities of Columbus, Bexley, Dublin, Hilliard, Upper Arlington and Worthington have clean indoor air ordinances and all except for Hilliard (which takes effect May 1) are now being enforced.

For more information about ordinances in Franklin County, please go to www.franklincountyohio.gov/health or call 462-4AIR (4247).



Each community has a public hotline where you can report violations or complaints of the clean indoor air ordinances.

- in Columbus, call 724-4AIR (4247)
- in Bexley, call 235-8694
- in Dublin, call the Dublin Police at 889-1112
- in Upper Arlington, call 462-4AIR (4247)
- in Worthington, call the Worthington Police at 885-4463

Franklin County Board of Health

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Flu Vaccination Program

www.vaccine4me.com

As you know, it was a challenging year for flu vaccinations due to the shortage early in the season. The Franklin County Board of Health was fortunate to have received the majority of the vaccine we ordered but many of our partner health agencies in the Franklin County community did not. Because of this, our department faced a much higher demand than in past years. Our staff worked diligently since October to follow distribution guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and most importantly did our best to vaccinate and protect the highest of the high risk in our community.

The majority of the large clinics were held in November and December. By mid-December word of additional vaccine availability began to trickle in and we worked closely with our partners on the Adult Immunization Coalition to order additional doses. By January, the CDC eased the guidelines which made more people eligible for the vaccine. Our staff continued to give flu vaccinations through January at our Senior Clinic locations and at the Franklin County Board of Health.

We have held 35 clinics including one combined clinic with the Columbus and Delaware Health Departments as well as LifeCare Alliance where 1,100 flu shots were given. By the time it was all said and done, the Franklin County Board of Health gave over 7,000 flu shots in 2004.



Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps

Resource for parents

The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) is a health care program overseen by the Ohio Department of Health. BCMh links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their child needs. Every Franklin County family receiving BCMh services has a nurse from the Franklin County Board of Health available to work with them. A nurse can be an important resource for families who may be working with many agencies and providers of care for their child. The nurse can help find community resources and assist with any health care concerns that the family may have regarding their child.

In 2004, there were 2,240 Franklin County families enrolled in the BCMh program. Board of Health nurses made 5,753 patient contacts with these families. For more info on BCMh, please call 462-5960.

How do I make a referral to the BCMh program?

Families, schools, medical and service providers, and other concerned people can make referrals to the BCMh program in Franklin County. If you know of a child you think might benefit from our BCMh program services, please call our office at 462-5960 or email us at fcbh@franklincountyohio.gov.

Our staff is available to make presentations to schools and community groups and to provide information on how to access health care and other programs available through the Franklin County Board of Health. Call us at 462-5960 for more information from a BCMh representative.



Help Me Grow

Start school healthy and ready to learn

Help Me Grow (HMG) is a program for Franklin County's pregnant parents, newborns, infants and toddlers that provides health and developmental services so that children start school healthy and ready to learn. The Franklin County Board of Health has one of a small number of pilot projects in the state to align services for HMG and BCMh under one service coordinator, a public health nurse. This pilot project increases the capacity of BCMh so that coordination of services can be provided to a child meeting the requirements of both programs.



Immunizations

Are You Up-To-Date? Vaccinate!

Immunization is the single most important way you can protect yourself and your family from serious diseases.

Immunizations available for infants and children include hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, H. influenza type b, pneumococcal conjugate, polio, chickenpox, measles, mumps, rubella, influenza for high risk children and hepatitis A. Children are recommended to receive as many as 20 injections before they reach 18-months of age. The Franklin County Board of Health works to ensure that all infants and children have access to recommended immunizations by offering 11 walk-in immunization clinics throughout the county each month. There is a small administrative fee for most immunizations, but no one will be denied recommended vaccinations if unable to pay. Medicaid cards are accepted.

Adult Immunizations provided by Franklin County Board of Health include: tetanus-diphtheria, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, flu, pneumonia, meningococcal and pre-exposure rabies vaccine.

For more information on clinics please call 462-3635 or visit our web site at www.franklincountyohio.gov/health.

In 2004, 2,771 patient contacts were made through Franklin County Board of Health Immunization Clinics with a total of 5,206 immunizations given.

Time was also spent preparing for mass vaccination clinics throughout the community in the event of an emergency. The Nursing staff continues to receive training and prepare for bioterrorism and/or biological events.



Public health acts on the knowledge that health is a fundamental resource to the individual, to the community and to society as a whole and must be supported by soundly investing in living conditions that create, maintain and protect health. - Kickbusch, Ilona



Senior Wellness Clinics

Screenings for mature adults

Senior Wellness Clinics are provided for mature adults age 50 years and over at 19 community sites each month. Health assessments and/or screenings are available along with health education concerning heart disease, diabetes and other health issues. Referrals are made to healthcare and community agencies. Pneumonia immunizations are offered throughout the year at all Wellness Clinics. Influenza immunization clinics are scheduled every fall. Other adult immunizations are available at FCBH immunization clinics. Cholesterol profile screens can be scheduled by calling 462-3719. There is a nominal fee. To find the Wellness Clinic nearest you, visit our web site at www.franklincountyohio.gov/health or call 462-3719.



Communicable Disease

www.cdrsinfo.com

Local health departments have the responsibility to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases. In order to do this, physicians, hospitals, schools, daycare centers and laboratories are required to report all cases of communicable diseases to the health department. Our epidemiology and nursing staff then work to contain the spread of the disease, manage outbreaks, and provide education and outreach. This year we've seen an increase in Hepatitis C and pertussis (whooping cough) cases. The whooping cough cases remind us about the importance of vaccinating children on time for vaccine-preventable diseases. More information about communicable diseases for the general public and healthcare providers is available at www.cdrsinfo.com.

Solid Waste and the Nail-A-Dumper Program

www.nailadumper.com



The Solid, Infectious and Hazardous Materials Section prevents the improper disposal of solid, infectious and hazardous waste in the community. Staff are responsible for regulating and enforcing the disposal of waste into approved facilities (including landfills, compost sites, tire shredding facilities, construction and demolition debris landfills, recycling operations, and infectious waste generators). This section also regulates solid waste disposal vehicles. Our nationally recognized Nail-A-Dumper Program uses inspectors from the City of Columbus Refuse Division, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Franklin County Board of Health to catch illegal dumpers and litterers. A Franklin County Assistant Prosecutor is also assigned to bring these criminals to justice. To keep our county's solid waste ending up in the right place, your trash is our business.

A total of 549 solid waste disposal facility inspections and 2,308 complaint investigations were conducted in 2004.

Community Environmental Health

Keeping you safe



The Community Environmental Health Section's primary responsibility is to ensure, maintain and in some cases improve environmental conditions relating to public health. This is accomplished through enforcement of several sections of the Ohio Administrative Code and local Board of Health Sanitary Regulations. The areas which we regulate include public swimming pools and spas, manufactured home parks, RV parks, campgrounds, day camps, tattoo and body piercing establishments, and public and non-public schools. We also respond to public health nuisance conditions, animal bite complaints, rabies control and prevention, housing complaints, and rodent control. Staff members also provide lead safe housing assessments and investigation of children with elevated blood lead levels. This section also works with other agencies including Adult Protective Services and Franklin County Children Services in order to protect the health and welfare of the elderly and minor children.

Staff investigated 3,553 public health nuisances and conducted 977 inspections of pools, spas and special use pools. In addition, staff conducted 356 school inspections, 113 mobile home park inspections and 568 lead inspections.

Mosquito Control Highlights

Protecting against West Nile Virus



The mosquito control program was expanded in 2004 to meet the continued threats posed by West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases. In response to input from the community, a research-based program was developed to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease while remaining environmentally responsible. We also started a partnership program to couple our technical assistance and expertise with communities who have mosquito control equipment and staff to increase our capacity to respond to vector mosquitoes. The program focused on identification of larval habitats and trapping adult mosquitoes to allow us to effectively target problem areas with public education, larval habitat reduction, larviciding, and adulticiding. The increased surveillance also allowed us to evaluate the effectiveness of our control activities and work with partner communities to control the mosquito population.

There were no human cases of West Nile Virus in communities served by the Franklin County Board of Health, even with West Nile Virus incidence rates in mosquitoes 60% higher in 2004 than in 2003. Our goal is to continue to build upon our success to prevent La Crosse Encephalitis, which is always present in Ohio, and to control high numbers of potential disease vectors, other than West Nile and La Crosse Encephalitis.

2004 Mosquito Control in Review
980 traps set
118,675 mosquitoes trapped
411 mosquitoes tested positive for West Nile Virus
266 larval habitat sites investigated and treated
48 fogging shifts worked

Food Protection

Protects against food-borne illness



The Food Protection Section's primary responsibility is to protect the community against food-borne illness resulting from health code violations and the improper handling of food. This section inspects food services and food establishments like restaurants, grocery stores and convenience stores. Staff also provides educational sessions for operators to assist them in providing the safest food possible to our communities. Keeping your favorite dining and shopping places safe is the goal of this section.

A total of 5,955 food service inspections were conducted in 2004.

Water Wastewater

Keeping drinking water safe



The Water and Wastewater Section is ultimately responsible for the safety of drinking water and keeping pollution from septic systems out of our streams, waterways, and water supplies. Staff works to protect human health and environmental quality by making sure that sewage systems and private wells serving individual households are properly installed and maintained. Any complaint that involves unsafe private well water or sewage from a household sewage system is what this section strives to correct. Any subdivision of land involving the use of private sewage systems or wells is subject to review by staff.

During 2004, the Water Wastewater staff inspected:
2,420 water wells
3,000 sewage systems
4,500 aeration systems
460 semi-public sewage systems

Plumbing Inspection

Residential and commercial



The Plumbing Inspection Section staff provides inspections of both residential and commercial plumbing systems that are covered by laws, rules and regulations set by our department and the Ohio Plumbing Code. Our inspectors are certified with the State of Ohio. Whether it is a small home remodel job, a hot water tank installation, an apartment complex or a single family home, our inspectors are there to make sure wastewater gets to the sewer, sewer gas is vented properly, and potable water is available at the correct temperature at every tap.

A total of 11,651 residential and commercial plumbing systems were inspected in 2004.

Do you need a wheelchair ramp or other handicap modifications made to your home or apartment?

You may be eligible for funding with a Handicap Accessibility grant!
Call 462-3160 today to see if you qualify.



Funding and services available through the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, Franklin County Community and Economic Development Department, and Franklin County Board of Health



Need Help? Have a Question?

Important Phone Numbers for You to Know

General Information -----	462-3160
Animal Bites/Rabies Control -----	462-4538
Birth or Death Certificates (handled by Columbus Health Department) -----	645-7331
Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) -----	462-5960
Clean Indoor Air Ordinances -----	462-4247
Communicable Disease -----	462-3845
Environmental Complaints & Services -----	462-3160
Food Service Complaints -----	462-3855
Health Education -----	462-6668
Immunization Services -----	462-3635
Lead Poisoning Prevention -----	462-3927
Mosquito Control -----	462-2483
Nail-A-Dumper Hotline -----	871-5322
Plumbing Inspections -----	462-3559
Solid Waste Complaints -----	462-3554
Wellness Clinics for Seniors -----	462-3719
Water Testing -----	462-3559



The health of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend. - Benjamin Disraeli



Environmental Division Special Projects

Mercury Thermometer Exchange

The Franklin County Board of Health, Columbus Health Department, Bowling Green State University, Columbus Division of Sewerage and Drainage and several county fire departments continue to offer residents the opportunity to remove thermometers, thermostats and other devices that contain mercury, a highly toxic substance, from their homes at no cost. Participants receive a free digital thermometer in exchange. In 2004, we collected more than 3,100 thermometers, 82 thermostats, 15 blood pressure cuffs and 37 containers of mercury! We will continue to offer this program in 2005. For more information, please go to our web site at www.franklincountyohio.gov/health.



Housing, Health and Quality of Life

The Environmental Health Division offers a variety of housing related services because poor living conditions can have an effect on public health. We enforce the International Property Maintenance Code for interested jurisdictions in our health district which provides communities with the ability to maintain the quality of existing housing stock if property owners do not take on the responsibility voluntarily. Quality housing is essential to a community's viability, health and quality of life. Through a cooperative effort with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners Department of Community and Economic Development, our department is participating in a Federal Community Development Block Grant Program that provides funds for handicap accessibility modifications, urgent repairs, and private sewage system and private well repairs or replacement. This program provides grants to qualified homeowners for emergency repairs of roofs, plumbing and HVAC systems, electrical systems, ramps, bathroom and kitchen modifications, and lift chair systems to provide handicap accessible homes.



Water Quality Partnership Program

Using Community Block Grant Funds from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the Environmental Health Division manages the process of connecting homes to sanitary sewers for qualified homeowners. The Board of Commissioners provide these new sewers using a variety of funding sources in cooperation with the Franklin County Sanitary Engineer, Township elected officials, and the City of Columbus. Starting in mid 2004 and going through 2006, the Water Quality Partnership program will provide sewers to over 1,000 Franklin County residents in over 13 areas, and more importantly, remove these homes from depending on failed sewage systems. This program directly improves public health and stream water quality by removing pollution from streams and drinking water wells.



Administration News to Know

The Board

The Board of Health consists of five members who are each appointed to a five-year term. All members must reside within the General Health District, may not hold an elected office, should be knowledgeable in the field of public health, and at least one member shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine within the state.

The Board must meet at least once a month and may hold as many special meetings as it deems necessary. The Franklin County Board of Health meets regularly on the second Tuesday of each month at Memorial Hall located at 280 East Broad Street in Columbus. All meetings are open to the public. To carry out day-to-day functions, the Board appoints a Health Commissioner who is the Executive Officer and Secretary of the Board. Susan A. Tilgner has served as Health Commissioner since April of 1999.

Board Members

Jack R. Bope, Jr.
Dana L. McDaniel
Annemarie Sommer, MD
Robert S. Steele
Joseph P. Weaver, RS

Franklin County District Advisory Council

The Franklin County District Advisory Council appoints the members of the Board of Health. The District Advisory Council is made up of the Chairman of each group of Township Trustees, the Mayor of each Village and the President of the Board of County Commissioners.

The makeup and creation of the Council was determined by the State Legislature in 1919. As required by state statute, the District Advisory Council must meet annually in March with the Health Commissioner for the purpose of appointing its officers (Chairman and Secretary) and a member to the Board of Health.

The 2004 annual meeting was held on March 24, 2004. The District Advisory Council elected Gary Dever, Brown Township Trustee, as Chairman and Keith Goldhardt, Pleasant Township Trustee, as Secretary. Robert Steele was reappointed to serve on the Board of Health for a 5-year term.

Health District Licensing Council

The Health District Licensing Council (HDLC) was created by State Law in 2002. Members are appointed by the Franklin County District Advisory Council and one member holds a seat on the Franklin County Board of Health. The HDLC consists of one representative of each business activity for which the Board of Health operates a licensing program. The HDLC serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Health.

Our Budget

In 2004, the Franklin County Board of Health had an operating budget of \$6,130,214.78. Our revenue for the year was \$5,382,468.51 and our expenditures were \$5,220,058.52. Being a service-based agency, the majority of our expenditures were for personnel services. Other expenditures included materials and supplies, services and charges, and capital outlays. Our revenue is collected through several avenues including property taxes, intergovernmental charges, charges for services, licenses and permits, and fines and forfeitures.



Franklin County Board of Health

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